In the Claims (Clean Copy as Amended)

1. (Twice Amended) Chronic implant apparatus for decreasing pressure in a first portion of a cardiac structure of a patient comprising a shunt implanted in a puncture in a septum in the cardiac structure, whereby a volume of blood sufficient to reduce pressure in said first portion flows across said septum.

2. (Twice Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first portion comprises the left ventricle and said pressure is the end diastolic pressure in a patient heart, wherein said shunt is implanted in a septum defining the left ventricle, and wherein the shunt communicates with the left ventricle, whereby a small of blood is flows across the septum from the left ventricle to reduce the end diastolic pressure.

3. (Original Claim) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the shunt comprises a passive check-valve that allows flow when a pressure differential between the left ventricle and another chamber of a heart above a threshold pressure, whereby shunting is prevented during left ventricular systole

4. (Original Claim) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the shunt comprises a passive check-valve that allows flow when a pressure differential between the left ventricle and another chamber of a heart is between a lower threshold and a higher threshold, whereby shunting is prevented during left ventricular systole.

5. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for decreasing pressure in a left ventricle of a patient comprising a shunt implanted in a septum communicating with an area outside the left ventricle, whereby a volume of blood sufficient to reduce end diastolic pressure in a patient flows through the shunt, wherein the shunt comprises a semi-passive check-valve selectively activated to permit flow from the left ventricle sufficient to reduce the end diastolic pressure.

6. (Original Claim) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein an intra-corporeal electrical battery generates said signal.

7. (Original Claim) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein signal is generated by an externally coupled energy source.

8. (Original Claim) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a pump in fluid communication with the shunt and having an input connected to the left ventricle and an output connected to a volume of lower pressure.

9. (Original Claim) The apparatus of claim 2, comprising a tubular element having two ends and a tissue affixation element disposed at each of said ends.

10. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said tubular element is comprised of a

biologically inert non-metallic material.

11. (Twice Amended) A method of decreasing pressure in a first portion of a vessel of the cardiac structure of a patient comprising the steps of:

(a) puncturing a vessel wall between the first portion and another portion; and
(b) implanting a shunt communicating with an area outside said first portion,
wherein the first portion comprises the left ventricle and said pressure is the end diastolic pressure in a patient heart; an
wherein said shunt is implanted in a septum defining the left ventricle and communicates with the left ventricle,
whereby a volume of blood is released from the left ventricle sufficient to reduce the end diastolic pressure.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of selectively permitting flow when a pressure differential between the left ventricle and another chamber of a heart above a threshold pressure, whereby shunting is prevented during left ventricular systole

14. (Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of selectively permitting flow when a pressure differential between the left ventricle and another chamber of a heart is between a lower threshold and a higher threshold, whereby shunting is prevented during left ventricular systole

15. (Original Claim) A method of decreasing end diastolic pressure in a left ventricle of a cardiac structure of a patient comprising the step of, further comprising the step of implanting a shunt communicating with the left ventricle and an area outside the left ventricle whereby a volume of blood is released from the left ventricle sufficient to reduce end diastolic pressure is released, and actuating a semi-passive check-valve by an external signal.

16. (Original Claim) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of generating said signal with an intra-corporeal electrical battery.

17. (Original Claim) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of generating said signal with an externally coupled energy source.

18. (Original Claim) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of activating a pump in fluid communication with the shunt and having an input connected to the left ventricle and an output connected to a volume of lower pressure.

19. (Original Claim) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of implanting said shunt, said implanting step comprising the step of deploying a tubular element

having two cnds and a tissue affixation element disposed at cach of said ends via a catheter.

20. (Original Claim) Thc method of claim 19, wherein said tissue fixation element is a shape retaining metallic material and further comprising the step of releasing the tissue fixation elements.